



November 4th, 2011

CALENDAR**Monday, November 7th**
6th Grade Trip to TEVA**Tuesday, November 8th****Wednesday, November 9th****Thursday, November 10th**
Emergency Dismissal Drill
Students dismissed from
Church on Russell Rd. @
3pm**Friday, November 11th**Veterans Day, No School for
Students.**Candle Lighting times for November**

Friday November 4th — Light 5:27

Friday November 11th — Light 4:19

Friday November 18th — Light 4:12

Saturday November 5th — End 6:28

Saturday November 12th — End 5:20

Saturday November 19th — End 5:15

Dvar Torah on Parashat Lekh-Lekha, by Rachel Anisfeld

People often wonder: Why did God choose Avraham? Unlike Noah, we don't hear that he is a great *tzaddik*, "a righteous person," before God speaks to him. So why did God choose him?

God didn't choose Avraham. Avraham chose God, is the Sefat Emet's answer. Notice that God does not call Avraham by name in that first call: *lekh lekha*. "Go forth," He says simply. (Later, when their relationship develops – in the story of the binding of Isaac – God will call him by name, but here the call is more universal.) This *lekh lekha* call of God's is present at all times and to all people, says the Sefat Emet. It is just a question of whether you choose to hear it and respond.

Avraham was the first one who did.

This call is still relevant, in fact, essential. The Torah has been around for thousands of years now. We have a strong tradition we pass down from parent to child. And yet there is something that cannot be passed down. Each person, as an individual, needs to choose to heed the call. We should feel that we are each, like Avraham, discoverers of God.

Avraham was asked to leave his homeland, his birthplace and his parental home. We who are brought up in the tradition have no need to do this in order to find God. Or do we? Every person must make an Avraham-like journey. Tradition can be passed on, but faith in God, a religious feeling, cannot. It must be discovered anew inside each person.

And it can only be discovered by leaving something behind, says the Sefat Emet, by leaving behind the entrapments of our normal, everyday life. There is something about routine that makes one unthinking and unseeing. We need to somehow shed the impediments of the norm in order to allow ourselves to become a *bri'ah ha-dashah*, "a new being."

This was Avraham's strength, his ability to take a journey, to grow and change. He is not like Noah, a ready-made *tzaddik*, but he becomes greater than Noah over time, because of his ability to transform. By the end of this week's parsha, he is truly "a new being;" he has transformed his body – through the *brit milah* – and his name – from Avram to Avraham.

Avraham's journey is a long one. He does not simply arrive in the land and it is over. The parsha details his many stops along the way. And the midrash names 10 different trials he had to overcome over the course of his lifetime. This command of *lekh lekha*, of walking or going forth, was an ever-present command of continued transformation, of never staying in the same spiritual spot.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS!

Our Classroom Pets

Gan Yeladim has many responsibilities here at Bet Shraga. One of those responsibilities is to take care of our parakeets, Polly and Tara. Every morning we hear them chirping and tweeting (the old fashioned kind, not the new kind) and often wonder what they are saying and thinking. We asked the kids to tell us what they think Polly and Tara are saying. Here are their responses:

- Madelyn:** I like you.
Amy: Shalom chaverim
(goodbye friends).
Asher: B'tayavon
(have a good appetite).
Eliana: Good morning.
Ayelet: They want to do the things
and not stay in their cage.
Tani: Coming out of their cage.
Ella: Hello, I love you.
Zvi: I think I really like you.
Zohara: Hi.
Lia: Good morning, I love you.
Shoham: Hi and good morning.
Layla: Hello and they love us.
Ami: Stop talking when you're
eating.
Joshua: It's their birthday forever and
life and they like to eat.
Dov: Stop being loud.
Jason: Good morning and hi friends.
Elijah: Saying the good bye song.
Toby: I'm hungry.





HACD Soccer

The HACD Soccer team won yesterday's game by a score of 10-1. I would attribute the positive results of their last two games to hard work and the coaching of Amy Drucker and Steve Levy. It was an exciting season that saw the Lions claim two victories, even though they often played short handed. See you on the field next year!

HACD Basketball

The basketball season has started.
Below is the upcoming practice schedule.

Sunday 11/6 – 7/8 boys 2:30 – 4:00

Starting the following week:

7/8 Boys

Sundays - 9-11

Fridays - 2:30 – 4:00

4/5 Coed

Tuesdays - 3:15 – 4:30

Sundays – TBD (to be determined)

2/3 Coed

Thursdays 3:15 – 4:30

Sundays - TBD

HACD SPORTS BULLETIN

The Lions X Country Team

Wednesday's meet concluded HACD's 2011 cross country season. A special thank you to both Amy Drucker and Steve Levy for donating their valuable time and expertise. I have heard nothing but positive remarks regarding the competition, coaches, and the league itself. I am very proud of our athletes who continued to work hard and improve their mile times as the season wore on.

HACD had three top ten finishers in their respective divisions during their last meet at The Crossings of Colonie.

Marissa Burack

3rd Place with a time of 8:44

Ari Levy

6th Place with a time of 8:04

Netania Kligerman

10th Place with a time of 10:04

This Sunday would be a great opportunity for our athletes to race one more time at the Family Fun Run for Israel. The race will be a 5K, which is approximately 3.1 miles.

Family Fun Run for Israel

Sunday November 6th—Race begins @ 9:30

The Crossings (Maria Dr. entrance)

Register before 9am - \$18 (12 and over) \$8 (under 12) \$25 (whole family)

Visit our website www.hacdalbany.org for more exciting
HACD News!!

Click on the Bulletin Board tab!!!



Want to be on the Journal?

Coming Soon.....

The Academy Journal

For More Information on the *Brand New* School
Newspaper Contact...

Samson Goldberg or **Julia Crooks**

Both Samson and Julia are available at their Homeroom (210) from 1:39 to 1:47 (9:58-10:18 on Fridays), and Lunch from 11:34-12:00 (11:36-12:00 on Fridays).



Parent ORG

Shabbat Sponsorship



DATE: Every Friday

WHERE: Each and every classroom

WHY: To celebrate a birthday, honor a teacher, highlight a special day, or *JUST BECAUSE!!*

WHAT: \$36 covers challah and grape juice for the entire school

HOW: Fill out the Shabbat Sponsorship form and bring to the office

RESERVE YOUR DATE TODAY!!

Questions? e-mail Jodi Eligberg at abbaeema@nycap.rr.com

Shabbat Shorashim

*A Shabbat morning service
of songs, stories, prayer & snack
for families with children*

7 years or younger

Saturday, November 12

10:45-11:30

Facilitated by Jodi Eligberg

Special Guests:

Moshe Moosekowitz

his Family & Friends

and You!



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

Shabbat
Shalom!

Hebrew Academy's 8th Grade presents
FAMILY RUN FOR ISRAEL!

Help the 8th Grade raise funds for their trip to the Holy Land!

Sunday, November 6, 2011

The Crossings (Maria Dr. Entrance)

5K run/walk for all ages!

Register in advance or by 9 am on Nov.

6th. Run begins at 9:30 am.

Awards & Post race snacks at 10:00-10:30

Entry Fee: \$18 (12 & over)

(check to "HACD") **\$ 8 (under 12)**

Best Buy! \$25 (whole family!*)

*(includes parents and siblings only)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____ Age on Nov 6 ____ (Families,
list all ages and sex next to names above). Mail form w/check by Nov.
1 to HACD, 54 Sand Creek Rd., Albany, NY 12205. Waiver: I/We the

undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damage I may now or in the future have against HACD, its representatives, agents and assignees, for any/all losses and injuries suffered by me/us in association with this event.

Signature _____

Date _____

Questions? Email tomkligerman@hotmail.com or call 512-5094.

Gas Card Raffle

**\$5 for a Chance to Win
\$100 Gas Card**

Benefit 8th Grade Israel Trip

**Drawing to be held on Tuesday November 8th, 2011
HACD 8th grade Home Room**

For more info contact: Joan Sheridan

(459-5664 or jsheridan6@nycap.rr.com).

Turn in raffle tickets and money by Friday November 4th, 2011 the latest to:

Joan Sheridan c/o Zahava – 8th Grade via Kiddie Mail



Community Event Calendar

To put a community wide event in our e-shabbaton, please email a text only version to apiroli@hacdalbany.com by Wednesday.

Look in the coming weeks for our Community News Bulletin featured on our new website!



DAUGHTERS OF SARAH

Mystery Challenge



NOVEMBER 19, 2011 * 7:30 PM * NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Please join us

For a whimsical and adventurous evening of sumptuous hors d'œuvres*, delectable desserts, a fabulous silent auction, and the opportunity to dazzle your friends with Your wit and wisdom all while supporting our region's only Jewish, kosher senior community.

724-3261 * foundation@dossc.org * www.daughtersofsarah.org

**\$50 PER PERSON UNDER 40
\$85 GENERAL ADMISSION**

* All food prepared under supervision of the Vaad Hakashruth of the Capital Region

Come study at the new

Open Bet Midrash of Albany

Fun, meaningful, creative communal Torah study in an honest, open environment.

No previous knowledge required. Both men and women welcome.

Meeting time: 7:30-9:30 PM once a week, day to be determined.

Facilitator: Dr. Rachel Anisfeld, who writes the weekly parsha blog “[Parsha Thoughts & More.](#)”

Pilot Session: Come try it out! Tuesday, October 4 at 8:00 PM at my home, 148 Milner Ave, Albany. Please let me know if you plan to attend: ranisfeld@nycap.rr.com, 489-5756

Cost: \$275 for the school year

The program is affiliated with the [Elul Bet Midrash program](#) based in Jerusalem, a Torah institute dedicated to the study of classical texts and creative responses to Torah.